FREE – TAKE ONE

The Romulus News

APRIL 6, 2000 – APRIL 19, 2000 "the little paper" VOLUME 13 NUMBER 18

Timely Tidbits ...

Craft Show Is April 8

Don't forget to stop by Romulus High School between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 8 – the date set for the school's annual Spring Craft Show.

Besides a variety of items offered by more crafters than ever before, there will also be basket-making demonstrations, "on-the-spot" charcoal portraits, pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting, kiddie games and "make it/take it" craft programs, door prizes, good food, and – if weather permits – a car wash.

Net proceeds from the event will benefit the treasuries of the classes of 2000 to 2003, so be sure to drop in and show your support.

Lift-a-Thon Benefits High School Football

Romulus High School's football team is seeking support for its annual Lift-a-Thon fund-raiser, set for 3:30 p.m. on Monday, May 8, in the High School gym. Last year, the athletes raised $3,500; this year, their goal is $5,000.

To make your flat-rate or per-pound-lifted pledge, send your check or money order directly to the Football Program, c/o Romulus High School, 9650 South Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174.

For more information, contact the High School's Athletic Department (734-941-2170, ext. 191).

Scholarship Deadline

The Romulus Mayor's Substance Abuse Task Force has extended its scholarship application deadline to Thursday, April 20. The two $1,000 scholarships (one based on community service, the other on the pursuit of a vocational career) will be awarded to students who are continuing their education, and may be used for tuition, fees, books, or other materials that are directly related to course requirements.

To pick up an application, stop in at Mayor William Oakley's office at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road, at Goddard). ❑

Mock Lockups Benefit Jerry's Kids / MDA

On Tuesday, March 21, the First Annual Romulus MDA Lockup was held to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., local business leaders, government and school officials, and other community-minded individuals were "Locked Up For Good" to raise funds to help the MDA's patient families in Romulus and surrounding communities.

"The MDA Lockup is a fun event," said Beth Wheland, District Director for the MDA. "After choosing their own time of 'arrest,' participants were picked up – by limousine – at their place of business, and brought to the DoubleTree Hotel. There, a 'mug shot' was taken, MDA's version of 'bread and water' was served, and the 'jailbirds' used cellular phones provided by Airtouch Cellular of Michigan to make arrangements for their 'bail' and subsequent release."

Altogether, said Wheland, the event raised $6,333.

Among the good sports who took part in the Lockup was Eugene Perecki, owner of Romulus Lanes/Walter's Bar.

"Being behind bars certainly gave me a new perspective on things," Perecki joked. "If that arrest had been real, I don't think I could have stood it.

"Seriously," he added, "it makes you realize that we take a lot of the good in our lives for granted."

Perecki expressed his gratitude to the many customers and friends who so generously dug into their pockets to raise his "bail," and ended up donating almost $1,000.

Eugene Perecki was one of several local business and civic leaders who agreed to be "locked up for good" to raise money for the MDA.

"From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank everyone who participated in this good cause," he stated. "They did what they did because they truly wanted to, and they did it with love.

"It just makes you feel good to help people."

Others who participated in the MDA Lockup included Jeff Brover (Voest Alpine), Angela Copeland (U.S. Post Office), Bill Crane (Crane Funeral Home), Anita Glaab (Monarch Laundry), Larry Long (Dave's Transport), Dave Paul (City of Romulus Department of Public Works), Eva Webb (City of Romulus Clerk's Office), Mike Williams (Williams & Son), and Brian Wright (Wright Oakwood). ❑

Kimbrough Appointed Principal of RMS

Melvin Kimbrough

At its regular meeting of March 27, the Romulus Board of Education appointed Melvin Kimbrough as the next Principal of Romulus Middle School. Kimbrough will replace Ed Clark, who was recently appointed as the district's Director of Human Resources.

Kimbrough began his career in the Romulus Community Schools as a teacher of industrial arts – a field in which he has both a bachelor's and a master's degree.

In 1989, after completing an educational specialist's degree at Eastern Michigan University, Kimbrough was appointed Assistant Principal of the Middle School. He held that position until April of 1995, when he became Assistant Principal at Romulus High School.

Kimbrough has been the strand leader for vocational studies and electives at the Middle School and the High School, and also administered the popular "Student of the Month" program.

His administrative experience includes several years as the head of the district's summer-school programs, as well.

Kimbrough has already begun to assume his new duties.

"Almost all of my teaching and administrative experience has been at the middle-school level," said Kimbrough, "and I am looking forward to returning to the challenges posed by the middle-school environment. I'm also looking forward to becoming acquainted with – and working with – the students and their parents." ❑

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request if, in our opinion, the letter's content merits anonymity.

The Romulus News *reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.*

Hats Off to Hunter Safety

To the Editor:

On the weekend of March 25–26, I attended the "Hunter Safety" course that was held at the Romulus VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) hall. Each year, a number of caring Romulus police officers and other members of the community organize and conduct this free program for anyone who is interested in the safe handling of guns and the rules of hunting "etiquette."

Until recently, I had always been an "anti-hunter." I have two teenage children, and I was afraid of guns – especially in light of all the recent news stories about gun-related disasters. But then I began dating a man who is an avid hunter, and hunting and guns became a part of my everyday life. My fears became an at-home reality. When a letter about the hunter-safety class was passed out at school, one of my children brought it home, hoping that I would feel better about guns if we attended the program.

Well, it worked! Both of my children and I attended the classes. I went expecting that I could put an end to my fear if I could just understand guns and their role in people's lives – and I got much more than I had ever bargained for.

The classroom was filled with minors as well as several adults, all wanting to learn. (I have never seen so many children interested and actually willingly learning in all my life.) For two days straight, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., they listened, asked questions, and participated in everything! I attribute much of the students' continued interest to the instructors, who were awesome! They did more than share their knowledge and experience with the children; they made friends with them and earned their respect.

I am truly impressed with the time and care that these dedicated people have put into teaching our youth. They deserve recognition. Hats off to Officer Tom Ellis, Officer Anthony Norman, and Lieutenant Daryl Poe of the Romulus Police Department; Judge Brian A. Oakley and Officer Greg Milatz of the 34th District Court; Dwayne Parker of the City of Romulus Department of Public Works; John and Janice Klein of Archer's Habitat (Romulus); and Sergeant Larry Sargent of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources. Special thanks are due to Post Commander Don Nichols and the VFW members who hosted the class, arranged for guest speakers, and kept everyone well fed with coffee and doughnuts in the morning, lunch at noon, and various snacks throughout the day.

I have a new respect for guns and the sport of hunting. Yes, we could shop at the local grocery store for food, but there is more to hunting than food. I now view hunting as the most humane way of controlling animal overpopulation.

I am very glad that I took this class. I am absolutely positive that education instead of ignorance can change the disasters that plague our country.

Leah Trevorrow
Lifelong Romulus resident

Lucky To Have Basham

To the Editor:

The good people of Romulus and Taylor are very fortunate to have Representative Raymond E. Basham working for them in Lansing. In an age where politicians have been cast in a negative image, Basham has gone about representing his constituency in a moral and professional manner.

Basham has made a priority of fighting the hazardous-waste injection well in Romulus (on the Taylor border). No community deserves to have a hazardous well site in their neighborhood. Basham has worked tirelessly to garner support from the business community as well as the private sector in an effort to put a stop to this dangerous project.

We say, keep up the good fight, Representative Basham. We are honored to have you as our state representative in Lansing.

Paul and Lynette Cholette
Romulus

SRB, Citizens Thanked

To the Editor:

Since 1993, the citizens of Romulus have challenged the proposal by Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS) to operate Michigan's first commercial hazardous waste disposal well facility in their community. Many individuals, organizations, businesses, and communities in the Downriver region have joined in the effort to stop the EDS well. I have had the personal privilege to work together with them on this most important issue.

On March 21, the tireless efforts and continued sacrifices of those opposing the well were rewarded as the Site Review Board (SRB) voted to recommend to the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that the EDS permit be denied. This was without question an enormous victory for everyone. Congratulations to all of you!

I wanted to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every individual who has participated in any way in this effort, including those who attended the public hearings, signed petitions, wrote letters, or displayed anti-well signs in their yards.

I would especially like to commend RECAP (Romulus Environmentalists Care About People), the City of Romulus, the City of Taylor, Cameron Priebe and Ed Boike (our local appointees to the SRB), and the Downriver Association of Realtors for the invaluable and extensive contributions they have made to this effort.

Of course, this fight is not over. With the SRB process completed, DEQ Director Russ Harding must now make the final permit decision. This is a very critical phase in the permit process. I would, therefore, encourage everyone to step up their level of commitment to the anti-well effort and help secure another victory for the Downriver region.

Raymond E. Basham
State Representative, 22nd District

Citizens Deserved Better

Dear Editor and Citizens of Romulus:

I have served as a Romulus councilman longer than anyone else, and I know for a fact what the responsibilities of our elected city officials are.

I have watched the recent Site Review Board hearings concerning the Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS) injection-well project, and taken special note of the antics of Mr. Ray Basham, Mr. Cameron Priebe, Mr. Ed Boike, and Mr. Greg Pitoniak, who are all from Taylor.

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The Romulus News

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Johns Hopkins Visits Romulus To Discuss Reading Program

(From left) Linda Anderson and Kathy Nelson (Johns Hopkins University) recently met with Linda Chapman (reading grant administrator) and Charles Peters (Oakland University) to discuss a new reading program that will be implemented in Romulus.

Representatives from Johns Hopkins University (located in Baltimore, Maryland) recently visited the Romulus Community Schools to discuss a new reading program that the district will soon implement in grades six through nine. Funding for the program will come from a $75,000 grant that was awarded to the district thanks to the efforts of Curriculum Director Tom Dolan, who authored the grant application.

Recently piloted in the Philadelphia public school system with excellent results, the new program is designed to get students to become more active readers.

"Our program focuses on more than 100 'approved' books," explained Linda Anderson, a Johns Hopkins consultant. "Students read the books, master the books' vocabulary, participate in small-group discussions about what they've read, and write papers that answer questions or express points of view about the books' subject matter."

According to Anderson, teachers using the program will be guided by special "coaching copies" of the students' reading books. These manuals include information about appropriate discussion and writing topics, as well as the new vocabulary words that students will encounter.

Teachers will also receive training during staff in-service programs.

Anderson and her colleague from Johns Hopkins, Kathy Nelson, recently met with Charles Peters (a professor of education at Oakland University), Linda Chapman (grant administrator), and Tom Dolan to begin the process of revamping benchmarks and guidelines in the district's curriculum. When complete, this information will be used to train staff members so that the new reading program can be implemented effectively. ❑

SCOREKEEPERS NEEDED

Romulus Recreation Department is looking for scorekeepers to work one to four days per week (M, W, F, & Su) during the upcoming adult softball season. For further information, please call the Recreation office (734-942-6852), or pick up an application from the Personnel Office at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road, at Goddard).

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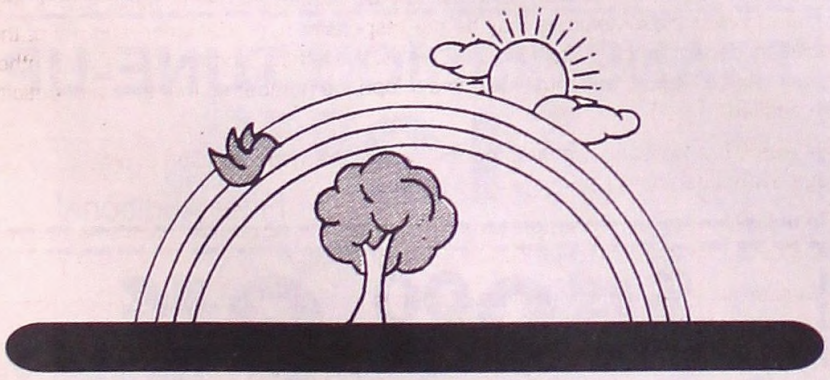

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Letters to the Editor

continued from page 2

EDS' project is in Romulus, so the purpose of the SRB was to sort out what community protections and benefits Romulus, not Taylor, was entitled to receive. Right or wrong, Romulus, not Taylor, has spent more than $1 million fighting EDS, and has had to sacrifice community improvements and infrastructure as a result.

Yet, the SRB was effectively manipulated by "Taylor hotheads" who ended up refusing to bargain for what Romulus was rightfully entitled to. Now the State of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is stuck with the job and will, in its sole discretion, make that determination. Frankly, I doubt that there is any sympathy left on the part of our DEQ officials after having been insulted over and over by the "Taylor hotheads."

But what is even worse is the fact that *Romulus' officials did not even try to protect the principle of "home rule"* for Romulus, and thus give us a say in our own destiny. Instead, they delegated the responsibility to career politicians from Taylor, not Romulus, and simply sat back and watched as "Taylor's hotheads" killed any chance for such a say.

The good citizens of Romulus deserve better from their elected officials.

Jimmie C. Raspberry
Romulus

Landstrom Commended

To Romulus Police Chief Charles Kirby:

I am writing you this letter today to share with you some worthwhile information regarding Officer Ken Landstrom (#50).

We have recently moved our facility of 70+ years from Detroit to our new home in Romulus. Unfortunately, there have been two occasions where vandalism has occurred at our new facility prior to our moving in. The first incident involved spray painting; the second involved the shooting out of most of our windows.

Officer Landstrom responded to both incidents, and I must say that I was pleased with his prompt and thorough investigations of each. I felt that Officer Landstrom went over and beyond the call of duty each time, resulting in finding the persons who were at fault.

I'm staying optimistic that these were isolated incidences, but am reassured that if this is not the case, the Romulus police will be here to answer the calls as professionally as did Officer Landstrom.

I hope that this letter finds its way into Officer Landstrom's personnel file as a job well done. Thank you for your time.

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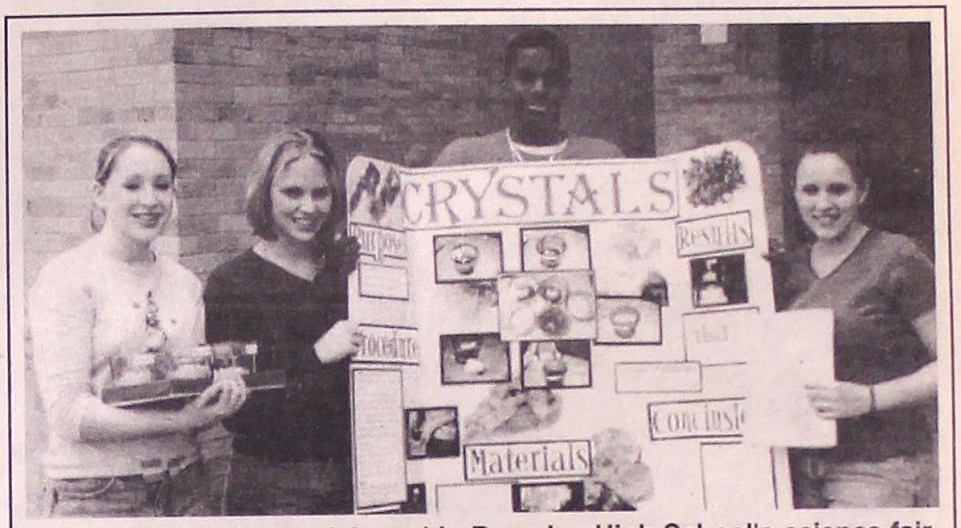
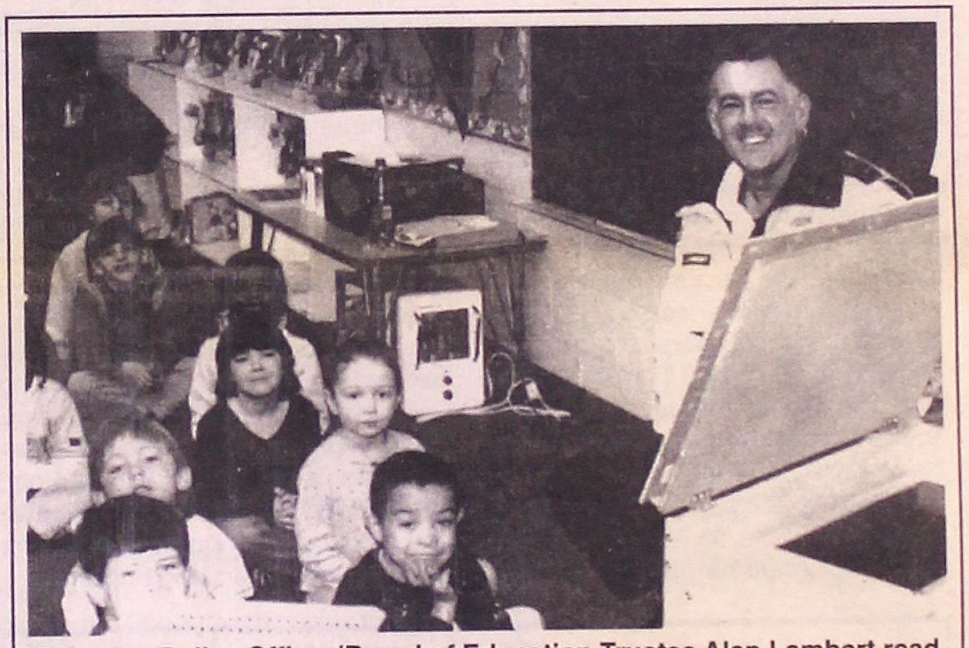
Around Our School District

Earning first-place honors at Barth's annual science fair were (from left) Stacey Shreve, Amelia Pelayl, Melissa Brewington, Benjamin Tuttle, Adam Hammond, Trisha Wanamaker, Joshua Carroll, and Bradley Bills.



Among those who participated in Romulus High School's science fair were (from left) Meghan Conway, Heather Patrick, Karim Franklin, and Rachel Parsons.

Wick students who raised $4,800 for the American Heart Association through "Jump Rope for Heart" included (from left): front row – Kathleen Marcum, Monay Smith, and Tatiana Gray; back row – Jennifer Dick, Jessica Dick, Jillian Gray, Andrew Boyd, and Kandice Wells.



Romulus Police Officer/Board of Education Trustee Alan Lambert read to Pat Hebert's kindergarten at Merriman during National Reading Month.

Romulus Board of Education Trustee Eva Webb took time to welcome Tony Benivegna to Romulus. Benivegna's firm, Italo-American Master Builders, is one of four that are building new homes in the Gateway Golf Club community.

Romulus Middle School's choir members – including (from left) Lindsey Moss, Brittany Johnson, Precious Jewell, Brandy King, and Regina Nelson – worked hard to prepare for their "Music in Our Schools" concert.

GM's Romulus Engine Plant "Goes Hollywood" with Oscar

Waiting on the set of a UAW-GM television commercial are Romulus Engine plant employees Princess Allen and Frank Huelsman. (photo: Dave Cetnar)

Kevin Spacey and Angelina Jolie weren't the only ones in the spotlight during the annual Academy Awards ceremony, held Sunday, March 26. Eight employees from General Motors' Romulus Engine plant made their television debut in a UAW-GM commercial that aired during the Oscars broadcast.

The commercial celebrates GM's 10-year official sponsorship of the U.S. Olympic Team. Called "The Team Behind The Team," the advertising program was developed in conjunction with the United Auto Workers.

GM's Olympic sponsorship program centers around a $3.5-million vehicle donation program that provides vehicles to 100 families of eligible U.S. Olympic hopefuls.

The employees who appeared in the commercial – Princess Allen, Larry Baker, Don Boykin, Dave Cetnar, Frank Huelsman, Hank Meadows, Carroll "Blue" Richardson, and John Setko – were chosen from more than 100 employees who auditioned for the roles.

Romulus employees will also be featured in print advertising supporting GM's involvement in the U.S. Olympics.

The GM Powertrain Romulus Engine plant is located on Ecorse Road between Wayne and Hannan roads, and produces V6 and V8 engines for General Motors cars and trucks. ❑

Benci Is Capitol Scholar

On March 7, State Representative Ray Basham invited students (from left) Katie Borec (Taylor Truman High School), Eric Jablonski (Taylor Kennedy High School), and Justin Benci (Romulus High School) to spend a day with him in Lansing for a firsthand lesson in government as part of the "Capitol Scholars" program.

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Prospective Students Attend Aviation Program's Orientation

Ralph Larson (right), hangar manager for the Michigan Insitute of Aeronautics, conducts a tour of the facilities for (from left) Gary Lee, Matt Defelice, and Keith Timbrooks.

A recent orientation about the Romulus Community Schools' new aviation technology program was well received by prospective students and their parents. Bill Musham, Director of Adult and Community Education, welcomed a large audience at the Michigan Institute of Aeronautics, where he and hangar director Ralph Larson conducted various demonstrations as well as a tour of the Institute's facilities.

According to Musham, the hangar floor at the Institute is divided into many different teaching stations. Each station has airplane parts that the instructor will need to conduct lessons about his/her particular subject. Students will learn the ins and outs of each section of a plane by disassembling and reassembling it. Mastery of this process, in addition to book work, will prepare students who want to become licensed for airframe or power-plant careers.

Musham explained that, of the 61 students who have applied for the program, 27 are currently under consideration for enrollment. He further indicated that student attendance, grades, and citizenship will all be important factors in the final applicant screening process.

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RCHS Lions Win State Championship

Under the leadership of Coach Mark Robinson, Romulus Community High School's new basketball team has won the Michigan Alternative Athletic Association's first-ever basketball championship (Class "A").

The RCHS Lions played their regular-season games against fellow Wayne County Alternative League members Allen Park, Southfield, Southgate, and Wyandotte. When they advanced to the playoff level, the Lions won all four contests, defeating Saginaw Mackinaw, 55–49; Pontiac McCarroll, 48–42; Ann Arbor Stone School, 61–55 (OT); and Jackson Tomlinson, 46–43.

Because the League's motto is "everybody plays, everybody wins," Coach Robinson had ample opportunity to observe the performance of all his athletes.

"I was very pleased with the students' efforts," he stated. "They learned to work as a team, and played well in the face of strong opposition."

Principal Kathleen Jacobson is another enthusiastic supporter of the new team, which she believes is an effective incentive for improved student achievement.

"Our students had to maintain passing grades and proper behavior in order to be eligible for the team," she said. "It gave them something to work for, and they responded wonderfully – both in the classroom and on the court."

Jacobson also noted that the Lions have given a big boost to the spirit and morale of other students, as well.

"Quite a few of them went to Jackson for the semifinal and final games in order to cheer their team to victory," she said.

The Lions team consists of Corey Bailey, Phillip Conner, Dejuan Evans, Robert Fuller, James Hill (whose 25 points made him the high scorer in the championship final against Jackson), Jamie Jones, Jimmie Jones, James Lewicki, Emmenuel Lindsey, Brian Poe, Abdul Wardlow, and Steve Wardlow (high scorer in the semifinal against Ann Arbor, with 17 points). ❑

Community Calendar

- **St. Paul's Hosts Blood Drive** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (located at the corner of Ellis and Craig streets in New Boston) is hosting a blood drive on Monday, April 10, from 2 to 8 p.m. Both walk-ins and call-ins (734-753-9048) are welcome.
- **Registration Deadline for Adult Summer Softball Is Here!** – The Romulus Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for its adult summer softball league. To register your team for the Men's Monday/Wednesday League ($575), one of two Friday Men's Leagues ($475 – $500), or the Women's Monday/Wednesday League ($375), call Keith Brothers at 734-942-6852. Deadline for registration is Monday, April 10.
- ***The Mayor's Chair*** – The next edition of the monthly *Mayor's Chair* program will air on cable channel 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13. Special guests for the evening will be 34th District Court Judges Tina Brooks-Green and Brian A. Oakley, as well as Juvenile Probation Officer Deborah Nelson, who will be discussing ways that the courts can become more involved with the schools and the community. Anyone who would like to be present when the program is taped must be seated in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 Wayne Road, at Goddard) by 6:15 p.m. Beginning at 6 p.m., home viewers can ask questions of the Mayor and his guests by calling 734-942-7571.
- **Easter Craft Show** – St. Stephen Catholic Church/School (18800 Huron River Drive, New Boston) will host an Easter craft show Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, April 16, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tables ($25 each) are still available. For more information, call 734-753-4892.
- **Kids' Craft Program at the Library** – The next in the Romulus Public Library's seasonal craft classes for children in grades kindergarten through five will be held at the Library (11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall) on Saturday, April 15, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Although the class is free, preregistration is required. For more information, call 734-942-7589.
- **Health Screenings** – Romulus residents are urged to take advantage of various health screenings that will be offered as part of Project Healthy Living at the Romulus Recreation Center (36515 Bibbins) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 20. Free services will include vision and hearing screenings, height and weight checks, blood-pressure checks, pulse oximetry, nutrition counseling, and medication counseling. Services with associated charges (anywhere from $5 to $25 each) include blood panel testings, prostate specific antigen blood tests, colo-rectal cancer-screening take-home kits, ovarian-cancer blood screenings, H. Pylori blood tests for gastritis and ulcers, osteoporosis tests, pneumococcal vaccine tests, and body-fat-composition tests. For more information, call 734-942-6852.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – The Romulus Recreation Center's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at noon on Saturday, April 22, at Elmer Johnson Park. Searches will be broken into groups for ages two and under, three to four, five to six, and seven to eight. Although there is no need to preregister for this free program, youngsters are required to bring their own basket or other container for their eggs. For more information, call 734-942-6852.
- **Used-book Sale** – The organization known as the Friends of the Romulus Library promises that its next used-book sale will be one of its largest ever. The event is set for Monday through Wednesday, April 24–26, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, April 29, from 12 to 5 p.m. (Bag Day). During the first three days, hardcovers will sell for $1, while paperbacks will go for 50¢; on Saturday, shoppers can fill a grocery bag for $1.50. It's a chance to stock up on weeks of reading for less than the cost of one new book.
- **Nursery Is Accepting Applications** – Huron Countryside Co-operative Nursery (located at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, corner of Ellis and Craig streets, New Boston) is currently accepting applications for the 2000–2001 preschool year. The nursery welcomes children ages 2½ to 5 according to the following schedule: ages 2½ to 3 (Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.); age 4/pre-kindergarten (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.). For more information, attend the Nursery's open house (Wednesday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m.) or call 734-941-3527.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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Wednesday – 1/2 Slab Rib Dinner includes fries, coleslaw, and homemade bread: **$6.58** + tax

Thursday – Wing Ding Day includes coleslaw, bread, and fries (hot sauce extra): **$4.47** + tax

Friday – Cod Dinner includes coleslaw, fries, and homemade bread **$4.61** + tax

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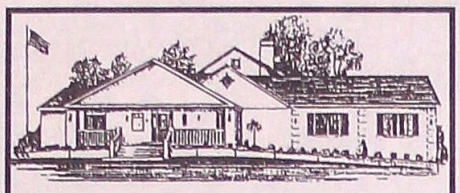

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Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, please call 734-942-6852.)

Happy Birthday!

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday to those of my Tower neighbors born in the month of April: Myra Brower, Dean Dudgeon, Willadean Evitts, Helen George, Barbara Gillingham, Doris Hendricks, Jane Kobylski, Helen Kostecki, Margaret McIntosh, Sally Mulka, Rosie Robinson, Phyllis Wade, and Atles Willis.

Closed for the Holiday

Just a friendly reminder that the Romulus Senior Center will be closed on Good Friday (April 21).

Easter Luncheon

The Romulus Senior Center will be celebrating Easter at this month's luncheon, set for Monday, April 17. A ham dinner and a holiday treat will be featured. Cost is $6. Sign up at the Center.

Lunch Out

Ride the senior van to Pacific International for this month's "Lunch Out" program, set for Friday, April 28. Cost is $1.50 for transportation, plus the price of your meal. Sign up at the Center.

Shopping

For a transportation fee of just $1.50, Romulus senior citizens can ride the Center's van for shopping at Meijer on Friday, April 14, at 9:30 a.m. Since space is limited, seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment of the transportation fee reserves your seat. No refunds will be made unless there is a waiting list. Sign up at the Center.

Pool, Anyone?

Interested in shooting some eight-ball? The Romulus Senior Center is looking for women or men who would like to have a little fun on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Bunko

The Romulus Senior Center is now hosting bunko games each Tuesday at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Crime Watch

Crime Prevention Officer Joe Richardson of the Romulus Police Department will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 27, for the Center's monthly Crime Watch program. New faces are always welcome.

Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19. As always, both walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (734-942-6852) are welcome.

Check Your Blood Pressure

The Romulus Senior Center welcomes former Romulus Community Schools district nurse Ruth Fairchild, who will be coming to the Center once a month to perform free blood-pressure checks for local seniors. Fairchild will be replacing Rachael O'Neil, who generously donated her time for many months.

Next date: Wednesday, April 12, from 9 to 10 a.m.

Indoor Walking

The Romulus Senior Center travels to the nearest Wayne County Community College campus at 9:15 a.m. each Wednesday for an hour of safe, indoor walking. No preregistration necessary.

Volunteer Positions Open

The Romulus Senior Center is always looking for friendly volunteers who would like to become more involved in the Center by helping to plan and execute its various programs. To find out more about how you can give the priceless gift of caring, please contact Linda Norman, Program Coordinator.

Commodities Date Changed for April

The Romulus Senior Center has changed the schedule for commodities distribution *for the month of April only.* Qualified individuals should pick up their commodities on Wednesday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Preregistration (any weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; bring proof of income) is required for all first-time recipients.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman at 734-942-6852.

- ***Soaring Eagle Casino/Mt. Pleasant*** (April 25; $21); and
- ***Soaring Eagle Casino/Show*** (May 24; $9).
- ***Bay Mills/Kewadin Casinos*** (July 20–21; $129);
- ***New England (Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire)*** (September 17–23; $799)
- ***Golden Southwest Tour*** (November 11–25; $879; $100 holds your seat). ❑

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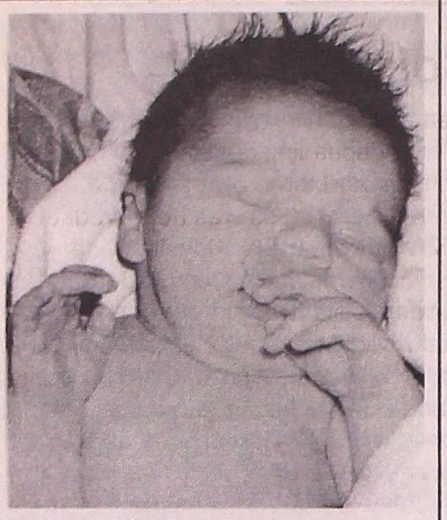
The Stork Arrived

Melanie Coak (Thomlinson)



Melanie Marie

Mike Thomlinson and Candice Coak of Kalamazoo, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their new daughter, Melanie Marie.

Melanie was born in Bronson Hospital (Kalamazoo, MI) at 8:10 a.m. on Saturday, February 5, 2000, weighing in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces, and measuring 19 inches in length.

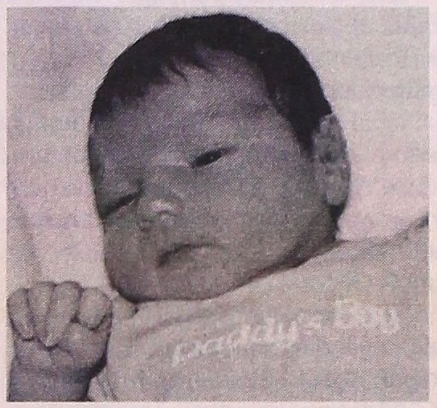
Melanie's grandparents are Dana Thomlinson (Lake Orion, MI) and the late Nancy Thomlinson, and Marvin and Cindy Coak (Romulus, MI). Her great-grandmother is June Coak (Garden City, MI). Also giving the new arrival a warm welcome were proud uncles Tony Coak and Jim and Mark Thomlinson, as well as aunts Ginger and Tracy Coak.

Jacob Patterson

Proudly announcing the birth of their new son, Jacob Kenneth, are Christopher and Nicole Patterson of Romulus, Michigan.

Born in Garden City Hospital (Garden City, MI) at 7:44 a.m. on Tuesday, February 22, 2000, Jacob weighed in at 10 pounds, 10 ounces, and measured 23 5/8 inches in length.

Joe and Linda Wegienka (Romulus, MI) are Jacob's paternal grandparents. His maternal grandparents are William and Nancy Dyer (Romulus, MI).



Jacob Kenneth

Congratulations

Reverend Virgil Humes (bottom, left), his family, and the congregation of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate Humes' tenth anniversary with the Church on Sunday, April 30. Everyone is welcome. For information about the day's programs, call the Church at 734-722-2180.

FAMILY PET LOST!

Male Sheltie was lost near Harrison/ Eureka area; last seen at Northline and Middlebelt. If you have information, please call 734-941-1543.

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REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 13, 2000

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, March 13, 2000, was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Betty M. Lenossi.

Roll call showed member Kenneth Berlinn absent (excused). All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Lenossi.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

3/00/1 Moved by Woods supported by Lambert to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

3/00/2 Moved by Lambert supported by Webb to approve the Minutes of February 28, 2000, as presented. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

Dr. Samuel B. La Monica, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel action as an item of information.

EMPLOYMENT: Donald Morris, Supervisor, Maintenance and Operations, Effective April 3, 2000.

Bills for Payment

3/00/3 Moved by Lambert supported by Webb that the Board approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Athletic Complex Presentation – Kingscott

3/00/4 Moved by Webb supported by McCraight to approve the schematic design for the athletic complex. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Curriculum Report – Math

Mesdames Golka and Behta and Mr. Hoffman were present to update the Board of Education on our K–12 math program. They also responded to questions posed by members of the Board.

Review – Mandatory Police Reports

For discussion only.

Reports of Conference Visit

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, discussed the recent AASA Conference, held in San Francisco, with members of the Board of Education.

Secondary Police Presence

3/00/5 Moved by Webb supported by Woods that the Board accept the recommendation of Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, and approve one-half payment for the three police officers assigned to our high school, middle school, and alternate school, as per the attached memo. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Abstain: 1 (Lambert). Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

Members of the audience voiced their concerns and posed questions to members of the Board of Education relative to the operation of the School District.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board: 1) Phyllis Adkins Letter – Honored by Church; 2) NCA Activities from Deborah Juriga; 3) EMU/General Motors Competition; and 4) Charter School Article.

Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

3/00/6 Moved by Dick supported by Woods to hold a hearing on the proposed changes at Mt. Pleasant School. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Mrs. Debbie Dick inquired about the class-size report. Dr. Bedell stated that it would be given at the next meeting. Mrs. Dick asked that we prepare a resolution for the wrestlers and, in particular, the wrestler who won the state championship. She also reminded the Board of Education about the Opera that the City of Romulus is presenting in April and the fund-raiser for the Boys' and Girls' Club of Romulus (at the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, March 18).

Mr. Billy McCraight also encouraged people to attend the Robotics Competition next year because it was so exciting.

Executive Session – Negotiations and Property Matters

3/00/7 Moved by Woods supported by Lambert that the Board convene in Executive Session to discuss negotiations and property matters. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:04 P.M. and reconvened in Regular Session at 8:29 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

3/00/8 Moved by Dick supported by Woods that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth E. Berlinn, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

Obituaries

Johnnie Robert Andrews

Johnnie Robert Andrews of Romulus, Michigan, died Friday, March 24, 2000. He was 47 years old.

Born in Highland Park, Michigan, on November 12, 1952, Johnnie was employed at the Ford Motor Company's Wayne Assembly plant before retiring due to disability, and was a member of United Auto Workers Local 900.

Surviving him are one daughter, Jennifer B. Andrews (Romulus, MI); two sons, Jonathon L. and Jason D. Andrews (both of Romulus, MI); his mother, Martha Lee Andrews (Romulus, MI); and a sister, Mrs. Robert (Rowena) Bennett (Tipton, MI).

His father, Dewey Andrews, predeceased him in 1985.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, March 29, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Don Belcher (Sunset Church of Christ, Taylor, MI) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery (Romulus, MI).

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Rita Violet (DuBois) Britton

Rita Violet (DuBois) Britton of Romulus, Michigan, died Saturday, April 1, 2000, at the age of 64.

The native of Belleville, Michigan, was born March 27, 1936.

Rita is survived by her husband, Samuel E. Britton; a daughter, Barbara Bittenbender; a brother, Chuck DuBois; two sisters, Barbara Grindell and Rose Brekke; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Predeceasing her were her daughter, Rita, and three brothers.

A funeral mass was held Wednesday, April 5, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus, MI), with Father Gerry Frawley officiating. Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Cemetery (Canton, MI). Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI).

Lydia (Danaco) Kyak

Lydia (Danaco) Kyak of Romulus, Michigan, died Wednesday, March 29, 2000. She was 80 years old.

The retired custodian was born in Neup, Russia, on December 31, 1919.

Surviving Lydia are her daughter, Vicki J. Martin, and two grandchildren, Jonathan and Ada V. Martin (all of Romulus, MI).

She was predeceased by her husband, John (1991), and one brother, Earl.

A funeral service was held Friday, March 31, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Dr. John L. Vaprezsan (Metro Baptist Church, Belleville, MI) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock, MI).

Memorial tributes may be made to any charitable organization.

George A. Moomaw

George A. Moomaw of Romulus, Michigan, died Wednesday, March 29, 2000, at the age of 64.

The Norfolk and Southern retiree was born (February 1, 1936) and married (November 8, 1958) in Detroit, Michigan.

George is survived by his wife, Sharon (Chargo) Moomaw; four sons, Allen Moomaw (Romulus, MI), Jeffery (Kimberly) Moomaw (Taylor, MI), Todd (John) Moomaw (Pontiac, MI), and Mark (Amy) Moomaw (Hot Springs, FL); four brothers, David, Clyde, Howard, and Raymond Moomaw; one sister, Nancy Horn; and nine grandchildren.

One brother and two sisters preceded him in death.

A funeral service was held Friday, March 31, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI).

Memorial tributes may be made to the Karamanos Cancer Institute.

Laura L. (Moore) Reckart

Laura L. (Moore) Reckart of Westland, Michigan, died Thursday, February 3, 2000. She was 91 years old.

A native of Hillsdale, Michigan, she was born July 26, 1908.

Surviving Laura are two siblings, Richard Moore (Fort Collins, CO) and Louise Faust (Hillsdale, MI).

Her husband, Cecil F. Reckart, predeceased her on April 17, 1986.

Interment was at Oak Grove Cemetery (Hillsdale, MI).

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Jim O. Scamp

Jim O. Scamp of Westland, Michigan, died Sunday, April 2, 2000, at the age of 60.

Jim was born on October 8, 1939, in Battle Creek, Michigan. He and his wife, Virginia L. Scamp, were married in St. Stephen Catholic Church (New Boston, MI) on May 7, 1960.

Surviving Jim are his wife; three sons, Joe O., (Canton, MI), Thomas A. (Belleville, MI), and Timothy J. Scamp (Flat Rock, MI); one daughter, Mrs. Robert (Renee L.) Card (Wayne, MI); his mother, Ethel Parker (Romulus, MI); one brother, Norman Scamp (Battle Creek, MI); one sister, Barbara Smith (Oklahoma); and three grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were a brother, Chester, and a sister, Arlene.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, April 6, at St. Stephen Catholic Church, with Father Alexander Wytrwal officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock, MI). Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI).

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